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Comment on the Death of President Weizmann of Israel

The death of Br. Chaim Weismann, Israel's first president, is not likely to change that country's domestic or foreign policy. Weismann was never anything but the titular head, because the government has been controlled by Prime Hinister Ben-Gurion from the beginning.

Since Weizmann was an outstanding leader among world Jewry, his death removes a major contact between the leaders of the new state and Jews elsewhere, particularly in Great Britain and the United States. The disappearance of Weizmann may, therefore, permit further intensification of antagonisms already apparent between top Israeli officials and world Zion-int leaders, and may make it more difficult to obtain the large outside financial support which is necessary for Israel's unbalanced economy.

Because executive power in the Israeli Government rests with the Prime Himister, no major internal struggle is anticipated for the election of a successor to Weismann. The Speaker of the Enesset, Joseph Sprimsak, who has been Acting President during Weismann's long illness, is a likely choice for the vacant position.

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